

# A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF MOSIER

OCTOBER 2021

Now that summer is over, we are enjoying cooler temperatures and the beautiful color changes in the fall foliage. Many of you are preparing for the upcoming holidays. We want everyone to enjoy the change of seasons and whether you are taking children to a pumpkin patch, picking apples at one of our local orchards, attending football games or raking up leaves, we want everyone to be safe!

Public safety is our number one priority at the Sheriff's Office. There are several things you can do to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 7. Sunrise and sunset will be an hour earlier than before, which means while we may gain an extra hour of sleep, many will be commuting more hours in the dark. As we adjust to the upcoming time change, we urge you to remain extra vigilant when driving in the dark. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration studies, the fatality rate per mile of travel is about three times higher at night than during the day. Please slow down, leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you and avoid distractions.

I want to caution you about not falling prey to scammers. As you know, scammers will try anything to gain access to your money and personal information. One scam with which you may not be familiar is one in which a person calls a law-abiding resident and claims the resident has to pay a monetary fine because he/she missed jury duty. The scammer identifies himself/herself as being from the Sheriff's Office and the caller ID displays what appears to be a local phone number. In reality, the scammer used spoofing technology that allowed him/her to appear legitimate by displaying local area codes and familiar local phone numbers (while tricking the resident into revealing personal information). Often, the unsuspecting resident is told to buy gift cards and to give the serial number of the card/cards to the scammer.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** no government agency will call you to purchase gift cards or send money orders to settle an issue with an agency. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and do not return the call. If you have any questions call our non-emergency number at 540-347-3300.

On another important topic, many of you may have elderly loved ones. Our Deputies are eager to raise awareness about the signs of elder abuse and to prevent it in Fauquier County. Elder abuse may include physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, as well as neglect. Sadly, family members or caretakers may be those committing elder abuse. Frequently, Sheriffs' Offices throughout Virginia are notified of scams that target elderly vulnerable residents. These scams include everything from banking, to home health care to home repair and even beauty salons.

Those most vulnerable to elder abuse often are individuals who suffer from memory loss, who may be isolated or who have communication issues. Thanks to the support we receive from the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, our deputies receive training that helps them identify elder abuse. If

you suspect signs of elder abuse, please call our non-emergency number at 540-347-3300 or call the 24-hour, toll-free Adult Protect Services hotline at 888-832-3858.

If you have any concerns about crime prevention or public safety efforts in Fauquier County, please do not hesitate to contact the Sheriff's Office.

It is a privilege to serve as your Sheriff. I greatly appreciate your continued support. Enjoy these wonderful autumn days!

Sincerely,

Robert P. Mosier  
Sheriff